

Loading of Food Stuffs at Selected Railway Stations

*1406. SHRI S. KUNDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to use large number of open wagons for loading and carrying foodstuffs on account of the Rabi crop;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railways propose to load wheat from a few selected stations only; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railways have failed to meet the traffic requirement for moving foodstuffs from Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to Kerala and other places in the South?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. But in view of the heavy concentration of foodgrain traffic immediately after harvesting and procurement and the commitments of Railways for loading other priority traffic as well offered during the peak Rabi season, use of some open wagons for movement of foodgrain traffic may be necessary. These wagons will be secured with tarpaulins and escorted by Railway Security Staff when in block rakes.

(b) Movement of foodgrains from surplus States to deficit States is arranged in accordance with the programmes settled in Co-ordination Meetings among representatives of Railways, Ministry of Food, Food Corporation of India and the State Governments concerned. Booking points are also settled in such meetings.

(c) No, Sir. On the contrary, movement has often outstripped the unloading capacity causing detention to wagons.

Supply of Raw Material for Engineering Industry in West Bengal

*1407. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engineering industry in the small scale sector in West Bengal had not been getting the required supply of raw

materials from the Centre in the last many months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has created a serious crisis in the industry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of raw materials to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (d). There is an acute shortage of B. P. sheets of 16-20G and thinner than 20G. This shortage is felt throughout the country. The allocation of B. P. sheets made to West Bengal under the Small Scale Industries Quota for 1968-69 was as under:

16-20G	1776 M. Tons
Thinner than 20G	1602 M. Tons.

Efforts are being made to get more allocation of these categories of sheets for the small scale sector.

Report of Tariff Commission on prices of Automobiles

*1408. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

SHRI RAM AVTAR SHARMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as yet no decision could be taken by Government on the report of the Tariff Commission regarding prices of Automobiles;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) when a decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The examination of the Report threw up a number of points on which further discussions with the Tariff Commission were considered necessary. These

discussions are, at present, in progress. A decision on the report, it is hoped, will be taken in a month or two.

Working Conditions of the Labourers in Bokaro Steel Plant

*1409. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. has employed a number of Sub-contractors and petty contractors for the construction of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the total number of such contractors;

(c) the terms of agreement between Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. and such contractors in regard to the working conditions of the labourers; and

(d) the steps taken by Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd. to enforce the terms of agreement by other contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 12 Zonal contractors for the main Civil Engineering Zones, and 53 smaller contractors/suppliers for works and materials.

(c) Extracts for the agreement relating to the working conditions of the labourers are placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-943/69.*]

(d) Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. has an Industrial Relations Section under a Senior Personnel Officer, who is on deputation from the Labour Department of the Government of Bihar, to enforce observance of the terms of the agreement.

Conspiracy in Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

*1410. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL

AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the judgement delivered by the Additional Judicial Commissioner of Ranchi in a case wherein four persons have been punished for various terms of imprisonment on account of their being involved in a conspiracy and setting fire to the Foundry Forge Plant of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, in September and December 1964;

(b) if so, whether he has further caused investigations to be made and whether he is satisfied that there are no such enemy agents in the said Corporation or other public undertakings under him; and

(c) if not, whether any investigations are proposed to be made to ensure that there are no such agents anywhere in the public undertakings which may further cause any damage to the installations?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The judgement is now under scrutiny, and action considered necessary will be taken. No special investigation has been undertaken, but security arrangements do exist to protect the plant against possible sabotage and consequent damage.

Tractor Project at Loni, Uttar Pradesh

7950. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the value and quantity of equipment proposed to be imported for the Tractor Project at Loni in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of collaboration with Soviet Russia;

(c) the size of the tyres necessary for the proposed Loni-produced tractors and whether these odd-sized tyres will have to be purchased from Soviet Russia;

(d) whether the five existing tractor manufacturers protested against Government's decision of starting the Loni project; if so the reasons for the protest;